

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Request to Hamilton Council to prioritize issuing a letter in support of the "Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act"

Importance: High

From: Emily McIntosh

Sent: September 24, 2022 10:35 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: re: Request to Hamilton Council to prioritize issuing a letter in support of the "Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act"

Importance: High

To: City of Hamilton Council,

I am writing to formally request that the City of Hamilton Council issue a letter of support for the "Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act" as one of its last orders of business from current Council before the municipal election October 24, 2022.

As Council is aware, this bill died last session provincially when the provincial election was called. This bill is now re-introduced as Bill 5. This is a non-partisan issue. Given this is the third time the bill is on the floor, continued advocacy is required. The bill "requires that codes of conduct for municipal councillors and members of local boards include requirements for those councillors and members to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies, and creates an integrity commissioner and judicial process to remove them from office for egregious acts of sexual, emotional and psychological misconduct" ([Hansard - Wednesday, August 10, 2022 | GovtMonitor](#)). Collective accountability is critical in good governance and this is applicable to all municipally elected officials.

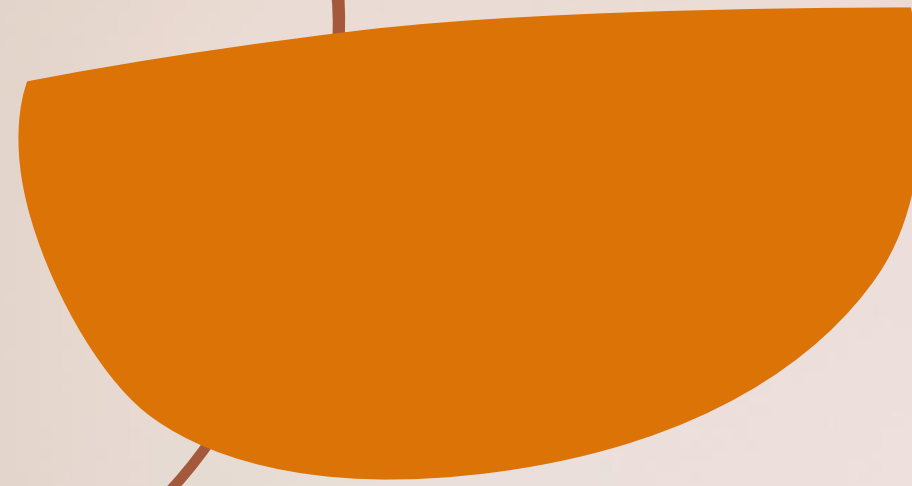
I am requesting a letter expressing support for the Bill be issued to all local MPPs, Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and MPP Stephen Blais. I would also urge Council to consider a specific sentence in the letter communicating its disappointment that passing this legislation was not prioritized, therefore precluding its application to help hold current municipally elected representatives across this province accountable to violence and harassment in the workplace policies, as well as ensuring an appropriate accountability structure for newly elected Councils across the province.

Thank you in advance to Council for demonstrating leadership in ensuring the rights of all persons are protected by advocating for legislative change that will help ensure workplaces and community spaces are safe because elected municipal representatives will have a more appropriate accountability structure to address the current culture of immunity with respect to perpetrating harassment.

Should Council vote in support of issuing the letter, it will be joining the City of Barrie Council, Wasaga Beach and Springwater Township (with more anticipated).

Sincerely,

Emily McIntosh



**Supporting Bill 5, Stopping Harassment
and Abuse by Local Leaders Act.
It's needed.**

#THEWOMENOFONTARIOSAYNO





ONTARIO PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL 5

Multiple Ontario municipalities have learned the hard way in the last few years about the lack of tools in the *Municipal Act* for holding councillors accountable for workplace harassment.

Currently, the most severe penalty that can be imposed on a municipal councillor is the suspension of pay for 90 days. There is no process for removing councillors from office.





ONTARIO PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL 5

Bill 5 seeks to address this. The Bill amends the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*.

The Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act will permit municipalities to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat for failing to comply with the municipality's workplace violence or harassment policies.





ONTARIO PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL 5

This helps keep workplaces safe. It's accountability, through a transparent and fair process that should exist but doesn't.

Our Ask Today:

For council to pass a motion to endorse Bill 5 and write a letter of support to be sent to local MPPs, Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and MPP for Orléans, Stephen Blais.

